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09/705,707	11/06/2000	Masaki Kyojima	107750	7854

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EXAMINER

WORJLOH, JALATEE

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3621

DATE MAILED: 03/05/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/705,707

Applicant(s)

KYOJIMA ET AL.

Examiner

Jalatee Worjloh

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 12 December 2003.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-36 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 5-7 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-4, 8-18 and 20-33 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 19 and 34-36 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

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DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

1. This Office Action is responsive to the amendment filed on December 12, 2003, in which claims 1,2,507, 9-10, 20, and 21 were amended and claims 23-36 canceled.

Response to Arguments

2. Applicant's arguments with respect to all claims have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.
3. Claims 1-36 have been examined.

Claim Objections

4. Claim 1 objected to because of the following informalities: typographically error, change "book certificate" to "booking certificate" (see line 5). Appropriate correction is required.

Specification

5. The abstract of the disclosure is objected to because of the following informality: there are several different font size applied to the content; please revise using one size. Correction is required. See MPEP § 608.01(b).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

6. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

7. Claims 1-3, 8, 20-24, 29, 30 and 33 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Publication No. 2001/0018660 to Sehr.

Sehr discloses electronically preparing verification information required for verifying a legitimacy of a booking certificate (i.e. "visitor card"), the booking certificate certifying that a supply of a product and/or service is booked in advance for a specific consumer, electronically inputting information for identifying the verification information (see paragraphs [0020], [0035] and [0037]), electronically preparing a booking certificate verifiable with the verification information identified by the inputted information for identifying verification information (see paragraph [0040]), and electronically outputting the booking certificate thus prepared (see paragraph[0048]).

Referring to claim 2, Sehr discloses verification information preparing means for preparing verification information required for verifying a legitimacy of a booking certificate (i.e. "visitor card"), the booking certificate certifying that a supply of a product and/or service is booked in advance for a specific consumer, verification information output means for outputting the verification information prepared by the information preparing means, booking certificate preparing means, to which information for identifying the verification information is inputted, for preparing a booking certificate verifiable with the verification information identified by the input (see paragraphs [0020], [0035] ,[0037], [0040] and [0054]) and booking certificate output means for outputting the booking certificate prepared by the booking certificate preparing means (see paragraph[0048]).

Referring to claim 3, Sehr discloses booking conditions preparing means for preparing booking conditions, which are conditions for limiting booking particulars, wherein the booking

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certificate prepared by the booking certificate preparing means contains the booking conditions prepared by the booking conditions preparing means (see paragraphs [0072] and [0074]).

Referring to claim 8, encrypted public key pair preparing means for preparing an encrypted public key pair and private key holding means for holding a private key out of the public key pair prepared by the encrypted public key pair preparing means, wherein the verification information is a public key prepared by the encrypted public key pair preparing means, and the booking certificate is prepared by using the private key held by the private key holding means (see paragraphs [0115]-[0117]).

Referring to claim 20, Sehr discloses electronically storing verification information for verifying booking certificate certifying that a supply of a product and/or service is booked in advance for a specific consumer, electronically inputting the booking certificate (see paragraph [0037], [0040]), and electronically verifying the legitimacy for the input booking certificate by using the stored verification information (see paragraph [0054]).

Referring to claim 21, Sehr discloses verification information storage means for storing verification information for verifying the booking certificate certifying that a supply of a product and/or a service is booked in advance for a specific consumer (see paragraph [0037]), and booking certificate verification means, to which the booking certificate is inputted, for verifying the legitimacy of the input booking certificate by using the verification information stored in the verification information storage means (see paragraph [0057]).

Referring to claim 22, Sehr discloses connection means for connection a portable memory apparatus holding the booking certificate, wherein the booking certificate verification

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means verifies through the connection means the legitimacy of the booking certificate stored in the portable memory apparatus (see paragraph [0036]).

Referring to claims 23 and 24, Sehr discloses wherein the booking certificate is usable to be downloaded to a portable memory unit to be presented for receiving the booking product and/or service; wherein the portable memory unit comprises an IC card (see paragraphs [0031] and [0035]).

Referring to claim 29, Sehr discloses wherein the booking certificate is usable to be downloaded to a portable memory unit to be presented for receiving the booking product and/or service (see paragraphs [0031] and [0035]).

Referring to claim 30, Sehr discloses a storage medium comprising instructions (see paragraph [0005]) for: preparing verification information required for verifying a legitimacy of a booking certificate, the booking certificate certifying that a supply of a product and/or service is booked in advance for a specific consumer, inputting information for identifying the verification information (see paragraphs [0020], [0035] and [0037]), preparing a booking certificate verifiable with the verification information identified by the inputted information for identifying verification information (see paragraph [0040]), and outputting the booking certificate thus prepared (see paragraph[0048]).

Referring to claim 33, Sehr discloses storage medium comprising instructions (see paragraph [0005]) for storing verification information for verifying booking certificate certifying that a supply of a product and/or service is booked in advance for a specific consumer, inputting the booking certificate (see paragraph [0037], [0040]), and verifying the legitimacy for the input booking certificate by using the stored verification information (see paragraph [0054]).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

8. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

9. Claim 4 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sehr as applied to claim 2 above, and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6189146 to Misra et al.

Sehr discloses a booking certificate (see claim 2 above). Sehr does not expressly disclose the booking certificate preparing means receives input of information for identifying an intermediary of a request for booking certificate, together with eh information for identifying verification information, and a booking certificate intermediation license certifying that the intermediary is licensed to intermediate the request for booking certificate corresponding to the verification information thus identified, checks whether or not the intermediary is licensed for intermediation of the request for booking certificate corresponding to the verification information by referencing the booking certificate intermediation license, and prepares the booking certificate only when the intermediary is found to be license. Misra et al. disclose the booking certificate preparing means receives input of information for identifying an intermediary of a request for booking certificate, together with eh information for identifying verification information, and a booking certificate intermediation license certifying that the intermediary is licensed to intermediate the request for booking certificate corresponding to the verification information thus identified, checks whether or not the intermediary is licensed for intermediation

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of the request for booking certificate corresponding to the verification information by referencing the booking certificate intermediation license, and prepares the booking certificate only when the intermediary is found to be license (see col. 6, lines 31-35,55-60). At the time the invention was made, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to modify the system disclose by Sehr to include the process wherein the booking certificate preparing means receives input of information for identifying an intermediary of a request for booking certificate, together with eh information for identifying verification information, and a booking certificate intermediation license certifying that the intermediary is licensed to intermediate the request for booking certificate corresponding to the verification information thus identified, checks whether or not the intermediary is licensed for intermediation of the request for booking certificate corresponding to eh verification information by referencing the booking certificate intermediation license, and prepares the booking certificate only when the intermediary is found to be license. One of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to do this because the intermediary can be used to provide resources to consumers (see Misra et al. col. 2, lines 22-31).

10. Claims 9-12, 14, 15, 25,26 and 31 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sehr in view of US Publication No. 2001/0011255 to Asay et al.

Sehr disclose electronically receiving a first request for booking certificate, which is a request for an issuance of a booking certificate certifying an advance booking of a specific product and/or service (see paragraphs [0040] and [0048]). Sehr does not expressly disclose electronically preparing a second request for booking certificate, which is a request for the issuance of the booking certificate requested with the received first request for booking certificate, the second request prepared based on the received first request and electronically

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outputting the second request for booking certificate thus prepared. Asay et al. disclose electronically preparing a second request for booking certificate, which is a request for the issuance of the booking certificate requested with the received first request for booking certificate, the second request prepared based on the received first request and electronically outputting the second request for booking certificate thus prepared (see paragraph [0060]). At the time the invention was made, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to modify the method disclose by Sehr to include the step of electronically preparing a second request for booking certificate, which is a request for the issuance of the booking certificate requested with the received first request for booking certificate, the second request prepared based on the received first request and electronically outputting the second request for booking certificate thus prepared. One of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to do this because it provides additional assurance of accuracy and reliability of the certificate (see Asay et al., paragraph [0023]).

Referring to claim 10, Sehr disclose booking certificate request acceptance means for accepting a first request for booking certificate, which is a request for an issuance of a booking certificate certifying a booking in advance for a specific product and/or service that is offered for supply (see paragraphs [0040] and [0048]). Sehr does not expressly disclose booking certificate request preparing means for preparing a second request for booking certificate requesting the issuance of the booking certificate requested with the accepted first request for booking certificate, the second request prepared based on the received first request and booking certificate request output means for outputting the second request for booking certificate generated by the booking certificate request preparing means. Asay et al. disclose booking certificate request

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preparing means for preparing a second request for booking certificate requesting the issuance of the booking certificate requested with the accepted first request for booking certificate, the second request prepared based on the received first request and booking certificate request output means for outputting the second request for booking certificate generated by the booking certificate request preparing means (see paragraph [0060]). At the time the invention was made, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to modify the system disclose by Sehr to include disclose booking certificate request preparing means for preparing a second request for booking certificate requesting the issuance of the booking certificate requested with the accepted first request for booking certificate, the second request prepared based on the received first request and booking certificate request output means for outputting the second request for booking certificate generated by the booking certificate request preparing means. One of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to do this because it provides additional assurance of accuracy and reliability of the certificate (see Asay et al., paragraph [0023]).

Referring to claim 11, Sehr discloses the system wherein the verification information needed for verifying a legitimacy of a specific booking certificate is associated with a specific product and/or service, and the first request for booking certificates contain information for identifying verification information for specifying the product and/or service for which a booking certificate is requested with the requests (see paragraph [0029]). Sehr does not disclose second request for booking certificates. Asay discloses second request for booking certificate (see paragraph [0060]). At the time the invention was made, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to modify the system disclose by Sehr to include a second

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request. One of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to do this because it provides additional assurance of accuracy and reliability of the certificate (see Asay et al., paragraph [0023]).

Referring to claim 12, Sehr discloses the booking conditions preparing means for preparing the booking conditions to be contained in the requested booking certificate (see paragraphs [0072] and [0074]). Sehr does not expressly disclose the second request. Asay discloses a second request based on the first request (see paragraph [0060]). At the time the invention was made, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to modify the system disclose by Sehr to include a second request for booking certificate prepared by the booking certificate request preparing means contains the booking conditions prepared by the booking conditions preparing means. One of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to do this because it provides additional assurance of accuracy and reliability of the certificate (see Asay et al., paragraph [0023]).

Referring to claim 14, Sehr discloses billing means for charging a fee for booking certificate issuance to requester of the first request for booking certificate, wherein the fee is charged by the billing means to the requester when the first request for booking certificate is inputted (see paragraphs [0049] and [0079]).

Referring to claim 15, Sehr discloses account settlement means for collecting a fee for booking certificate issuance from a requester of the first request for booking certificate, wherein the fee is collected by the account settlement means from the requester when the first request for booking certificate is inputted (see paragraph [0049]).

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Referring to claims 25 and 26, Sehr discloses the booking certificate is usable to be downloaded to a portable memory unit to be present for receiving the booked product and/or service; wherein the memory unit comprises an IC card (see paragraphs [0031] and [0035]).

Referring to claim 31, Sehr discloses a storage medium comprising instructions for receiving a first request for booking certificate, which is a request for an issuance of a booking certificate certifying an advance booking of a specific product and/or service (see paragraphs [0005], [0040] and [0048]). Sehr does not expressly disclose preparing a second request for booking certificate, which is a request for the issuance of the booking certificate requested with the received first request for booking certificate, the second request prepared based on the received first request and outputting the second request for booking certificate thus prepared. Asay et al. disclose preparing a second request for booking certificate, which is a request for the issuance of the booking certificate requested with the received first request for booking certificate, the second request prepared based on the received first request and outputting the second request for booking certificate thus prepared (see paragraph [0060]). At the time the invention was made, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to modify the medium disclose by Sehr to include instructions for preparing a second request for booking certificate, which is a request for the issuance of the booking certificate requested with the received first request for booking certificate, the second request prepared based on the received first request and outputting the second request for booking certificate thus prepared. One of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to do this because it provides additional assurance of accuracy and reliability of the certificate (see Asay et al., paragraph [0023]).

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11. Claim 13 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sehr and Asay et al. as applied to claim 10 above, and further in view of Misra et al.

Sehr discloses a booking certificate (see claim 10 above). Sehr does not expressly disclose the booking certificate intermediation license storage means for holding a booking certificate intermediation license to certify that the system is licensed for intermediation of the first request for booking certificate regarding the specific product and/or service, wherein: the second request for booking certificate, outputted from the booking certificate request output means contains the booking certificate intermediation license to intermediate the first request for the booking certificate regarding the specific product and/or service. Misra et al. disclose the booking certificate intermediation license storage means for holding a booking certificate intermediation license to certify that the system is licensed for intermediation of the first request for booking certificate regarding the specific product and/or service, wherein: the second request for booking certificate, outputted from the booking certificate request output means contains the booking certificate intermediation license to intermediate the first request for the booking certificate regarding the specific product and/or service (see col. 2, lines 16-21; col.5, lines 3012, 26-32; col. 6, lines 31-45). At the time the invention was made, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to modify the system disclosed by Sehr to include the booking certificate intermediation license storage means for holding a booking certificate intermediation license to certify that the system is licensed for intermediation of the first request for booking certificate regarding the specific product and/or service, wherein: the second request for booking certificate, outputted from the booking certificate request output means contains the booking certificate intermediation license to intermediate the first request for the booking certificate

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regarding the specific product and/or service. One of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to do this because intermediary can be used to provide resources to the proper consumers (see Misra et al. col. 2, lines 22-31).

12. Claims 16-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Misra et al.

Misra et al. disclose electronically inputting information for identifying an intermediary to perform intermediation of a request for a booking certificate certifying that a supply of a product and/or a service is booked in advance by a specific consumer, electronically inputting information for specifying the product and/or service for which the intermediary is licensed for intermediation, electronically preparing a booking certificate intermediation license for certifying that the intermediation of the request for booking certificate for the product and/or service specified by the latter input information is licensed to the intermediary identified by the former input information and electronically outputting the booking certificate intermediation license certificate thus prepared (see col. 6, lines 31-45, 50-60).

Referring to claim 17, Misra et al. disclose booking certificate intermediation license preparing means, to which information for identifying an intermediary to perform intermediation of a request for an electronic booking certificate for certifying that a supply of a product and/or a service is booked in advance for a specific consumer and information for specifying a product and/or a service for which the intermediary is licensed for intermediation are inputted, for preparing a booking certificate intermediation license for certifying that the intermediary identified by the former input information is licensed for the intermediation of the request for booking certificate for the product and/or service specified by the later input information and booking certificate intermediation license output means for outputting the booking certificate

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intermediation license prepared by the booking certificate intermediation license preparing means (see col. 5, lines 31-45, 50-60).

Referring to claim 18, Misra et al. disclose booking conditions limitation information preparing means for preparing booking conditions limitation information, which is information for limiting a scope of the booking conditions, which are conditions for limiting booking particular to be entered in the booking certificate issued by intermediation by the intermediary, who is the recipient of the license, wherein the booking certificate intermediation license prepared by the booking certificate intermediation license preparing means contains the booking conditions limitation information prepared by the booking conditions limitation information preparing means (see col. 10, lines 60-67; col. 11, table 5; col2, lines 16-20).

13. Claims 27 and 28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Misra et al. as applied to claim 17 above, and further in view of Sehr.

Misra et al. disclose a booking certificate (see claim 17 above). Misra et al. do not expressly disclose the booking certificate is usable to be downloaded to a portable memory unit to be presented for receiving the booking product and/or service; wherein the portable memory unit comprises an IC card. Sehr discloses wherein the booking certificate is usable to be downloaded to a portable memory unit to be presented for receiving the booking product and/or service; wherein the portable memory unit comprises an IC card (see paragraphs [0031] and [0035]). At the time the invention was made, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to modify the certificate disclose the certificate disclose by Misra et al. to be downloaded to a portable memory unit to be presented for receiving the booking product and/or service; wherein the portable memory unit comprises an IC card (see paragraphs [0031] and

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[0035]). One of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to do this because it reduces administrative costs, improved productivity, better quality of service, and higher revenues associated with the issuance, usage, and processing of the computerized cards as compared to the deployment of paper/plastic-based tickets (see Sehr, paragraph [0007]).

14. Claim 32 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sehr in view of Misra et al.

Sehr discloses a storage medium comprising instructions (see paragraph [0005]). Sehr does not expressly disclose instructions for inputting information for identifying an intermediary to perform intermediation of a request for a booking certificate certifying that a supply of a product and/or service is booked in advance for a specific consumer, instructions for inputting information for specifying the product and/or service for which the intermediary is licensed for intermediation, instructions for preparing a booking certificate intermediation license for certifying that the intermediation of the request for booking certificate for the product and/or service specified by the latter input information is licensed to the intermediary identified by the former input information and instructions for outputting the booking certificate intermediation license certificate thus prepared. Misra et al. disclose inputting information for identifying an intermediary to perform intermediation of a request for a booking certificate certifying that a supply of a product and/or a service is booked in advance by a specific consumer, inputting information for specifying the product and/or service for which the intermediary is licensed for intermediation, preparing a booking certificate intermediation license for certifying that the intermediation of the request for booking certificate for the product and/or service specified by the latter input information is licensed to the intermediary identified by the former input

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information and outputting the booking certificate intermediation license certificate thus prepared (see col. 6, lines 31-45, 50-60). At the time the invention was made, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to modify the storage medium disclose by Sehr to include instructions for: Misra et al. disclose inputting information for identifying an intermediary to perform intermediation of a request for a booking certificate certifying that a supply of a product and/or a service is booked in advance by a specific consumer, inputting information for specifying the product and/or service for which the intermediary is licensed for intermediation, electronically preparing a booking certificate intermediation license for certifying that the intermediation of the request for booking certificate for the product and/or service specified by the latter input information is licensed to the intermediary identified by the former input information and outputting the booking certificate intermediation license certificate thus prepared. One of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to do this because the intermediary can be used to provide resources to consumers (see Misra et al., col. 2, lines 22-31).

Allowable Subject Matter

15. Claims 5-7 are allowed.

16. Claims 19 and 34-36 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

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Conclusion

17. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a).

Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jalatee Worjloh whose telephone number is 703-305-0057. The examiner can normally be reached on Mondays-Thursdays 8:30 - 7:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, James Trammell can be reached on 703-305-9768. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306, 703-746-9443 for Non-Official/Draft.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Any response to this action should be mailed to:

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Hand delivered responses should be brought to Crystal Park 5, 2451 Crystal Drive,
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March 1, 2004


**JAMES P. TRAMMELL
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 3600**